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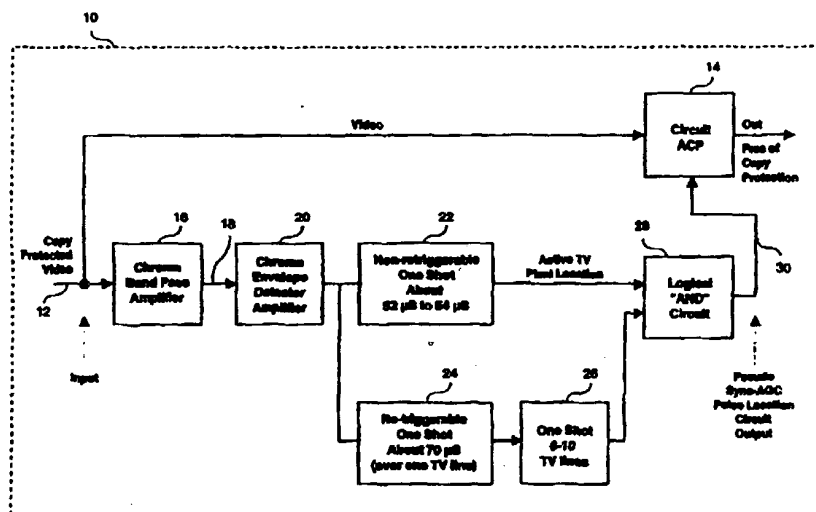
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REMOVING OR DEFEATING EFFECTS OF COPY PROTECTION SIGNALS FROM A VIDEO SIGNAL



(57) Abstract

In a known copy protection process for preventing recording of video signals, pseudo sync and AGC pulses (Fig. 2) are present on predetermined lines within the blanking intervals of the video signal so that any subsequent video tape recording of the video signal shows a picture of very low entertainment quality. This copy protection process is defeated first by determining the location of the video lines containing the copy protection using the color burst signal or chroma in the horizontal blanking interval to determine online detection (Fig. 4). Then some or all of the lines including copy protection signals are modified so as to render the overall video signal recordable. The modification is accomplished in a number of ways, including gain shifting portions of the video signal, level shifting portions of the video signal, bandwidth limiting certain portions of the video signal or replacing certain portions of the video signal with other video elements (Fig. 5).

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METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REMOVING OR DEFEATING EFFECTS OF
COPY PROTECTION SIGNALS FROM A VIDEO SIGNAL

Ronald Quan

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

5 This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional
Application No. 60/005,681 filed October 17, 1995.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

10 The present invention pertains to a method and apparatus
for processing a video signal, and more particularly to
removing (defeating) effects of copy protection signals from a
video signal.

Description of the Prior Art

15 United States Patent Number 4,631,603 ('603) by Ryan, is-
sued on Dec. 23, 1986 entitled METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
PROCESSING A VIDEO SIGNAL SO AS TO PROHIBIT THE MAKING OF
ACCEPTABLE VIDEO TAPE RECORDINGS THEREOF describes a video
signal that is modified so that a television receiver will
still provide a normal color picture from the modified video
20 signal while a videotape recording of the modified video sig-
nal produces generally unacceptable pictures (incorporated by
reference).

25 The '603 invention relies on the fact that typical video-
cassette recorder's automatic gain control systems cannot dis-
tinguish between the normal sync pulses (including equalizing
or broad pulses) of a conventional video signal and added
pseudo-sync pulses. Pseudo-sync pulses are defined here as
pulses which extend down to a normal sync tip level and which
have a duration of a least 0.5 microseconds. A plurality of
30 such pseudo-sync pulses is added to the conventional video
during the vertical blanking interval, and each of such
pseudo-sync pulses is followed by a positive pulse of suitable
amplitude and duration. As a result, the automatic gain con-
trol system in a videotape recorder will make a fake measure-
35 ment of video level which causes an improper recording of the

video signal. The result is unacceptable picture quality during playback.

United States Patent Number 4,819,098 ('098) by Ryan, issued on April 4, 1989 entitled METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CLUSTERING MODIFICATIONS MADE TO A VIDEO SIGNAL TO INHIBIT THE MAKING OF ACCEPTABLE VIDEOTAPE RECORDING describes a signal modification so that a television monitor receiver still produces a normal picture from the modified signal, whereas a videotape recording of this signal produces generally unacceptable pictures and is incorporated by reference. Videotape recorders have an automatic gain control circuit which measures the sync level in a video signal and develops a gain correction for keeping the video level applied to an FM modulator in the videotape recording system at a fixed, predetermined value. A plurality of positive pulses are added to a video signal with each immediately following a respective trailing edge of a normally occurring sync pulse. These added pulses are clustered at the vertical blanking interval of each field to minimize the affect of the same on the viewability of the picture defined by the signal while still causing the automatic level control circuit in a recorder to assess the video level at many times its actual value. The sync pulses themselves can also be at a reduced level, in order to enhance the effectiveness of the process.

United States Patent Number 4,695,901 ('901) by Ryan, issued on October 2, 1990 entitled METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REMOVING PSEUDO-SYNC AND/OR AN AGC PULSES FROM A VIDEO SIGNAL describes removing pseudo-sync pulses and AGC pulses that have been added to a video signal to enable acceptable video recording thereof and is hereby incorporated by reference. The added signals previously interfered with acceptable video recording of the video signal because the automatic gain control of videotape recorders sensed false recording levels, while conventional television receivers were unaffected by those modifications to the video signal. Removal of the added

pulses permits acceptable video recording of the previously modified video signal. A selectively-operable clipping circuit is used to remove selected negative-value components (i.e. pseudo-sync pulses) from the video signal, while added AGC pulses are effectively blanked from the video signal with an electrically-operated switch. Both the blanking and clipping functions are selectively achieved by sensing both the normal sync pulses of the video signal and the added pseudo-sync pulses. Method and apparatus are disclosed for "cleaning up" video signals modified by either the pseudo-sync pulses alone, the AGC pulses alone, or combinations thereof..

United States Patent Number 4,336,554 ('554) by Okada et al., issued on January 21, 1992 entitled CODE SIGNAL BLANKING APPARATUS (incorporated by reference) describes a code signal blanking apparatus comprising a switching means operative during a given period of a vertical blanking period of a television signal and a reference level setting means for producing an output of the reference level during said given period when the switching circuit is operative.

United States Patent Number 5,194,965 ('965) by Quan et al., issued on Mar. 16, 1993 entitled METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISABLING ANTI-COPY PROTECTION SYSTEM IN VIDEO SIGNALS describes a method and apparatus for disabling the effect of copy-protection signals placed in a recording video signals which is based on differences in the characteristics of television and VCR circuitry and is hereby incorporated by reference. Copy-protect signals include pseudo-sync pulses and/or added AGC pulses in the blanking interval of a video signal. The specific method described includes altering the level of the video signal during the vertical blanking interval, e.g. level-shifting, so as to render the copy-protect signals ineffective to prevent unauthorized copying by a VCR. A circuit for achieving the method includes a sync separator for detecting the vertical blanking interval, pulse generating circuits for producing pulses of predetermined widths during the inter-

val, and a summing circuit for summing the predetermined pulses with copy-protect signals thereby to shift their level.

An alternative method includes increasing the effective frequency and / or narrowing of the copy-protect signals during the vertical blanking interval so as to achieve attenuation and/or low-pass filtering in the VCR circuitry to thereby render the signals ineffective in preventing copying. A circuit for achieving this method includes pulse narrowing and/or pulse multiplication circuitry which effectively increases the high-frequency content of the pseudo-sync and/or AGC pulses.

United States Patent Number 5,157,510 ('510) by Quan et al., issued on Oct. 20, 1992 entitled METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISABLING ANTI-COPY PROTECTION SYSTEM IN VIDEO SIGNALS USING PULSE NARROWING describes method and apparatus for disabling the effects of copy-protect signals added to a video signal using differences in the characteristics of television and VCR circuitry (incorporated by reference). Copy-protect signals as described include pseudo-sync pulses and/or added AGC pulses in the vertical blanking intervals of a video signal. The specific method described includes increasing the effective frequency of the copy-protect signals during the vertical blanking intervals so as to achieve attenuation and/or low pass filtering in the VCR circuitry to thereby render the signals ineffective in preventing copying. A circuit for achieving this method comprises pulse narrowing and/or pulse multiplication circuitry which effectively increases the high-frequency content of the pseudo-sync and/or AGC pulses.

U.S. Patent Application 08/433,283 ('283) entitled "VIDEO COPY PROTECTION PROCESS ENHANCEMENT AND VERTICAL PICTURE DISTORTIONS," by Quan filed on May 2, 1995 which is incorporated by reference, discloses defeating the affects of the signal generated by the '603 patent by modifying the relative amplitudes of the pseudo sync pulses to the normal sync pulse so that synchronizing pulse detection system within a recorder

will only detect the normal synchronizing pulses, thus permitting normal recording of said copy protection signal.

U.S. Patent Application 08/435,575 ('575) entitled "VIDEO COPY PROTECTION PROCESS ENHANCEMENT AND VERTICAL PICTURE DISTORTIONS," by Quan filed on May 5, 1995 which is incorporated by reference, discloses various defeat mechanisms the affects of the signal generated by the '603 patent to permit normal recording of said copy protection signal.

U.S. Patent Number 4,907,093 ('093) entitled "Method and Apparatus for Preventing The Copying of a Video Program," which is incorporated by reference, discloses a method and apparatus for detecting the ordered pairs of pseudo-sync pulses and AGC pulses described in the '603 patent and disabling the recording function of a video cassette recorder. The '093 patent discloses several detection methods.

Additionally, U.S. Patent 4,571,615 ('615) entitled "TIMING GENERATOR FOR SYNC SUPPRESSED TELEVISION SIGNALS," by Robbins et al. issued on February 18, 1986 which is incorporated by reference, discloses a timing signal generator for recovering timing signals in scrambled video signals in which the synchronizing signals are suppressed including a detector responsive to the color burst or chroma in the horizontal blanking interval signal contained on the back porch of a suppressed horizontal blanking interval. The vertical interval is detected as the absence of color burst or chroma in the horizontal blanking interval for a specified time interval, and horizontal sync information is obtained by the detection of the first color burst or chroma in the horizontal blanking interval after an absence of color burst or chroma in the horizontal blanking interval.

All of the defeat methods described in the referenced defeat patents use the vertical and horizontal synchronizing pulses to determine the location of the copy protection signals within a copy protected video signal. There is a need for copy protection defeat mechanisms that do not rely on the

horizontal and vertical synchronizing pulses to determine the location of the copy protection signals within a copy protected video signal.

5 SUMMARY

The present invention is directed to a method and apparatus that use the color burst or chroma in the horizontal blanking interval signal to determine the location of the copy protection signals within a copy protected video signal.

10 The invention contains two basic elements: a method and apparatus for locating the copy protection signals using a color burst or chroma in the horizontal blanking interval signal; and a generic method and apparatus for modifying the copy protection signals in at least some of those lines and /
15 or copy protection pulses whereby an acceptable video recording of the video signal can be made.

The "generic" way of defeating or effectively eliminating the effects of the copy protection pulses is called "Circuit ACP". "Circuit ACP" is controlled by the pseudo sync AGC
20 pulse pixel location circuit that uses the color burst or chroma on the horizontal blanking interval signal as a trigger element as described above.

This "Circuit ACP" eliminates or reduces the effectiveness of the copy protection signals while in the digital domain by: a) Level shifting and/or pulse narrowing and/or pulse
25 attenuation as described in 4,695,901 ('901) Ryan, 5,194,965 ('965) and 5,157,510 ('510) Quan et al. (all referenced above and incorporated by reference); Normal composite sync replacement; c) Increased normal composite sync size that is larger
30 in amplitude than the pseudo sync such that sync separators will not detect pseudo syncs (as disclosed in the '965 patent and the '283 application discussed above and both incorporated by reference); d) Replacement of at least part of pseudo AGC locations with a signal (i.e. flat field) such that a record-
35 able copy is possible.

Several different circuits that can be used within "Circuit ACP" are described.

The methods and apparatuses for removing or defeating effects of copy protection signals include modifying less than all of the lines in which the copy protection signals are present, but sufficient of the lines so that the acceptable video recording can be made.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

With reference to the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 shows the vertical interval of standard NTSC video signal;

Figure 2 shows a copy protected signal including pseudo sync pulses and AGC pulses as described in the '603 patent;

Figure 3 shows a copy protection signal as described in the '098 patent;

Figure 4 shows a general block diagram of a first embodiment of the invention;

Figure 5 shows a voltage controlled amplifier or modulator embodiment of "Circuit ACP" depicted in Figure 4;

Figure 6 shows a switch to modify copy protection pulses as another embodiment of "Circuit ACP" depicted in Figure 4;

Figure 7 shows a summing amplifier embodiment of "Circuit ACP" depicted in Figure 4;

Figure 8 shows a combination of circuits as shown in Figures 5, 6, and 7; and

Figure 9 shows a block diagram of a second embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The principal object of the invention is to locate and defeat or reduce the effectiveness of copy protection signals. Figure 1 shows the vertical interval of standard NTSC video signal. Note that the color burst or chroma in the horizontal blanking interval signal is not present during the first nine lines of each field.

As discussed above there are two basic type of copy protection signals that are commonly present in video signals.

The first includes signals in the Vertical Blanking portion of the video signal. The second which will be discussed below includes copy protection signals in the Back Porch portion of the video signal.

Figure 2 shows a one horizontal line within a vertical blanking interval of the copy protection signal including pseudo sync pulses and AGC pulses as described in the '603 patent. The key element of this signal as described in the '603 patent is the relationship of the pseudo sync pulse with the AGC Pulse. This relationship is the cause of the AGC disturbance in a recorder recording the copy protected signal.

The elements of these copy protection signals are the combination of either a pseudo sync or a regular sync pulse with an AGC pulse. These pairs sync and AGC pulses are designed to cause the AGC circuitry in a recorder to miscalculate the proper gain setting and thus make an inferior recording. The primary object of the embodiments discussed below is to locate the copy protection signal using the Color Burst Signal and to modify a copy protected signal to reduce or eliminate the effects of the copy protection signals.

Figure 3 shows a commercial embodiment of the copy protection signal as described in the '098 patent. This signal is placed on several horizontal lines prior to the pre-equalizing pulses of the vertical interval in each field. The combination of these pulses with the pulses in Figure 2 increases the effectiveness of the copy protection without reducing the playability of the signal on a display device.

Figure 4 is an over all block diagram of an embodiment of the invention. This embodiment comprises two primary elements.

The first of these is a novel pseudo sync AGC pulse location circuit that unlike that of the '901, '965, '510 patents. The second is a "generic" Circuit ACP" that modifies the copy pro-

tection signal under the control of a control pulses generated by the location circuitry.

As discussed above, the referenced patents use the vertical and horizontal synchronizing signals within the video signal to detect the location of the copy protection pulses. The present invention senses color burst or chroma in the horizontal blanking interval to detect the copy protection pulses. As noted above, the color burst or chroma in the horizontal blanking interval signal is not present in the first nine lines of each field. The copy protection pulses are in known locations relative to the period containing no color burst or chroma in the horizontal blanking interval signals.

Each of the embodiments in the '901, 510 and '965 patents use sync separators, one shot timing circuits, logic, counters and digital line location. An embodiment as described in Figure 4 shows a novel pseudo sync AGC pulse location circuit that unlike '901, '965, and '501 patents, does not sense sync pulses to locate the copy protection pulses. Instead the embodiment of Figure 4 relies on color burst or chroma in the horizontal blanking interval.

Device 10 has an Copy Protected Input Video Signal 12 which is inputted to a "Circuit ACP" 14 and to a Chroma Band Pass Amplifier 16. Chroma Band Pass Amplifier 16 separates the chroma signal from the luminance signal. The Band Passed Chroma Signal 18 is coupled to Envelope Detector Amplifier 20.

As shown in Figure 1, the color burst or chroma in the horizontal blanking interval signal is missing for about 9 lines in the vertical blanking interval. The circuitry of Figure 4 takes advantage of this. The output of Chroma Envelope Detector Amplifier 20 is coupled to Non-retriggerable One Shot 22 (timing circuit) of about 52 microseconds to 54 microseconds (less than one TV line). This insures that the output of this circuit triggers off only burst and not chroma in the active TV line and field. The output of the Chroma Envelope Detector Amplifier 20 goes also to a Retriggerable One Shot 24 (timing

circuit) of about 70 microseconds (greater than one line), an interval that must be greater than 1 TV line but preferably less than 2 TV lines (less than 126 microseconds). The output of this 70 microsecond one shot is a pulse high from about line 10 to the end of the TV field (and possible high for 1 line into the next TV field). Since the AGC pulses and Pseudo sync pulses are known to be for lines 10 through 16 or 20, a 6-10 TV Line One Shot 26 triggers of the low to high transition of the 70 microsecond one shot into Logical 'AND' Circuit 28 with the 52-54 microsecond one shot output (active pixel location) that produces Pseudo sync AGC Pulse pixel and line location pulses suitable to control 'Circuit ACP' as to attenuate, clip, blank, level shift, enlarge normal sync pulses relative pseudo sync pulses, narrow and modify the copy protection pulses sufficiently as to allow a recordable copy into a video tape recorder.

Note the concepts of Figure 4, while in the analog domain, also apply in the digital domain.

The second portion of Figure 4 is the use of Control Pulse 30 to control the modification of the copy protection signals within Circuit ACP 14. In each of the embodiments below, the Copy Protected Video 12 is inputted to a first input of Circuit ACP as signal to be modified by Circuit ACP 14.

A second input of Circuit ACP is the above mention Control Signal 30.

A first embodiment of Circuit ACP 14 uses a voltage controlled amplifier or modulator to for instance, increase the gain during the normal composite sync pulses and video outside the VBI but excluding the pseudo syncs. During the pseudo sync and/or AGC pulses the gain can be turned down. This is done via Control Signal 30. Figure 5 shows Circuit ACP 14 with such a voltage controlled amplifier. Copy Protection Video 12 is inputted to an input of Voltage Controlled Amplifier 32. Control Signal 30 is inputted to the control element of Voltage Controlled Amplifier 34. This produces a voltage con-

trolled output that will perform the various function described above. The use of the voltage controlled amplifier is used to change the relative position of the pseudo sync pulses to the normal sync pulses (for example) as shown in Figure 3(e) of the '965 patent (incorporated by reference). The changing of the relative position of the normal sync pulses to the pseudo sync pulses will cause a recorder to not respond to the pseudo sync pulses. This is discussed further at Column 4, lines 22-29 of the '965 patent.

Another embodiment (figure 6) of Circuit ACP 14 uses a switch and a signal generator to modify the copy protected added pulses. For instance if, the signal generator produces a signal representing a blanking level, the control signal can be used to replace the added pulses with a signal that allows a recordable copy. The signal generator may be used to generate any signal including random noise or a test signal, or some variations of the input signal may include a modified version (i.e. narrowed pseudo sync pulses or AGC pulses, level shifted copy protected pulses, enlarged sync pulses and / or a filtered version of the copy protection pulses may be used (i.e. bandpass, low pass, high pass) so as to produce distorted copy protection pulses. This signal would replace or modify the copy protection signals so as to allow a recordable copy.

Figure 6 shows Circuit ACP 14 with such a switch generator combination. Video Copy Signal 12 containing copy protection pulses is inputted to an input of Switch 38. Control Signal 30 is inputted to the control element of Switch 38. The second signal input to Switch 38 is a Video Signal 40 which is generated by Generator 42. The use of the Switch 38 and Generator 42 replaces the Copy Protection pulses within Video Input 12 with a blanking level signal or some other signal i.e. modified part or all of copy protection signals or test signal, thus permitting a normal recording of the Video Input Signal 12 by a recorder.

A fourth embodiment of Circuit ACP 14 uses a summing circuit to level shift the pseudo syncs such that the VCR's circuitry does not sense the level shifted pseudo syncs. Thus, a recordable copy can be made. Preferably there is no or little effect during the normal composite sync pulses and video outside the VBI but excluding the pseudo syncs. During the pseudo sync and/or AGC pulses the level can be turned varied. This is done via Control Signal 30. Figure 7 shows Circuit ACP 14 with such a summing circuit. Copy Protection Video 12 is inputted to an input of Voltage Controlled Amplifier 32. Control Signal 30 is inputted to the control element of Summing Circuit 44. The produces a level shifted output that will perform the various function described above. The use of the level shifting signal is used to change the relative position of the pseudo sync pulses to the normal sync pulses as shown in Figure 3(e) of the '965 patent (incorporated by reference).

The changing of the relative position of the normal sync pulses to the pseudo sync pulses will cause the AGC system within a recorder to not respond sufficiently to the pseudo sync pulses. This is discussed further at Column 4, lines 22-29 of the '965 patent.

Figure 8 shows a combination of the various Circuit ACP embodiments described above in one package. These include Summing Circuit 44, Voltage Controlled Amplifier 34 and a combination of Switch 38 and Voltage Generator 42 and narrowing via the Control Alt signal into SW99 and nulling (attenuation via SW9 and Sum 9. The control signal is a logic high representing at least a portion of the time when AGC and or portion of the time when AGC and / or pseudo sync pulses are on.

Other "circuit ACP" variations can be circuits that turn logic high by sensing the copy protected video's AGC and pseudo sync pulses. Then using timing generators to output pulses shorter in duration of the AGC and pseudo syncs, which in turn is used to narrow the video's AGC pulses and pseudo sync pulses.

Of course the copy protection pulses may also be a combination of narrowing, attenuation, level shifting and or modification(i.e. replacement).

5 The embodiments discussed above have been to locate copy protection signals within the vertical blanking interval and to modify the copy protection signals as to eliminate them or make them less effective in copy protection.

10 The '098 and '603 patents also disclose copy protection techniques located on one or more lines within the back porch of a video signal. The general concepts of the instant invention can be used to eliminate or reduce the effectiveness of these signals.

15 Figure 9 shows an embodiment to detect the position of the copy protection pulses as depicted in the '098 patent. A very simple example would be to couple the chroma envelope pulse from the Chroma Pulse Detector directly to Circuit ACP.

20 However, a more reliable method is shown in Figure 9 in Device 50. As above, the present embodiment senses color burst or chroma in the horizontal blanking interval to detect the copy protection pulses. As noted above, the color burst or chroma in the horizontal blanking interval signal is not present in the first nine lines of each field. The copy protection pulses are in known locations relative to the period containing no color burst or chroma in the horizontal blanking interval signals.

25 Device 50 has an Copy Protected Input Video Signal 12 which is inputted to a "Circuit ACP" 14 and to a Chroma Band Pass Amplifier 16. Chroma Band Pass Amplifier 16 separates the chroma signal from the luminance signal. The Band Passed Chroma Signal 18 is coupled to Envelope Detector Amplifier 20 to generate a Chroma Envelope Pulse. As shown in Figure 1, the color burst or chroma in the horizontal blanking interval signal is missing for about 9 lines in the vertical blanking interval. The circuitry of Figure 9 takes advantage of this.

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The output of Chroma Envelope Detector Amplifier 20 is coupled to One Shot 54 (timing circuit) of about 200 to 250 TV lines. The One Shot 64 triggers off One Shot 54's output to generate a pulse coincident with the pulses described in the '098 patent. These lines are, for example, the last three lines of the field. This insures that the output of this circuit triggers off the area of the picture known to have copy protection signals within the Back Porch of the video signal. The width of these pulses can be made adjustable to accommodate variations of copy protection systems that may incorporate copy protection pulses over greater portions of the picture than presently used. The output of Retriggerable One Shot 64 and the Chroma Envelope Detector Amplifier 20 are coupled into Logical 'AND' Circuit 28 that produces Back Porch AGC Pulse pixel to control 'Circuit ACP' as to attenuate, clip, blank, replace or level shift the copy protection pulses as to allow a recordable copy into a video tape recorder.

Circuit ACP can be used in this embodiment to level shift the copy protection pulse, limit the bandwidth to pass only chroma or replace the copy protection pulse with a normal color burst and blanking level.

It should be noted that in each modification embodiment, only a sufficient part of the copy protection signal is needed to be modified to produce a defeat of the copy protection signals. This means a portion of the pseudo sync and or AGC pulses as described in Ryan '603 and '098, combined with a sufficient number of added pulse pairs and lines of occurrence.

This disclosure is illustrative and not limiting. All discussion in this specification have referenced the NTSC format. However, the concepts are equally applicable to the PAL and SECAM formats. Further modifications will be apparent to one skilled in the art and are intended to fall within the scope of the appended claims.

I CLAIM:

1. A method of removing the effects of pseudo sync and AGC pulse copy protection signals within a video signal, the copy protection signals being for inhibiting the making of acceptable video recordings of the video signal after digital to analog conversion, the method comprising the steps of:

using a color burst signal for determining a location of said copy protection signals; and

modifying the copy protection signals in at least some of those lines whereby an acceptable video recording of the video signal can be made.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the copy protection signals are in the NTSC format.

3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the copy protection signals are in the PAL format.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein the copy protection signals are in the PAL format.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of determining comprises the steps of:

inputting a control pulse representing a location of said copy protection signals;

inputting said copy protected video signal;

modifying said copy protected signal using said control pulse; and

outputting said modified signal.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of modifying includes:

increasing an amplitude of all areas of said copy protected video signal except those areas defined by said control pulse.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of modifying includes modifying less than all of the lines in which the copy protection signals are present, but sufficient of the lines so that the acceptable video recording can be made.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of modifying comprises the steps of:

inputting a control signal during said presence of said copy protection signals within said video signal;

5 controlling the gain of portions said video signals.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein the step of controlling comprises reducing the gain of a voltage controlled amplifier during said presence of said copy protection signals.

10 10. The method of Claim 8, wherein the step of controlling comprises increasing the gain of a voltage controlled amplifier during an absence of said copy protection signals within said video signal.

15 11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of modifying comprises the steps of:

inputting a control signal during said presence of said copy protection signals within said video signal;

inputting a replacement signal;

20 replacing said copy protection signals with said replacement signal.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein said replacement signal is signal representing a blanking level of said video signal.

25 13. The method of Claim 11, wherein said replacement signal is a video signal.

14. The method of Claim 11, wherein said replacement signal is a test signal.

30 15. A method of removing the effects of pseudo sync and AGC pulse pair copy protection signals within a video signal, the copy protection signals being for inhibiting the making of acceptable analog video recordings of the video signal after digital to analog conversion, the method comprising the steps of:

35 using a color burst for determining a location of normal sync pulses; and

increasing the amplitude of said normal sync pulse relative to said pseudo sync pulses while whereby an acceptable video recording of the video signal after digital to analog conversion can be made.

5 16. A method of locating copy protection pulses within a copy protected video signal comprising the steps of:

inputting said copy protected video signal;

chroma band passing said video signal;

detecting a chroma envelope;

10 generating a non-retriggerable one shot pulse;

generating a retriggerable one shot pulse;

using said retriggerable one shot pulse to generates a multi line one shot pulse; and

15 anding said non-retriggerable one shot pulse and said multi line one shot pulse to produce a control signal representing a location of said copy protection pulses.

17. A method as in Claim 16 wherein said non-retriggerable one shot pulse has a width less than one line.

20 18. A method as in Claim 16 wherein said non-retriggerable one shot pulse has a width less than one line.

19. A method as in Claim 16 wherein said non-retriggerable one shot pulse has a width 52 to 54 microseconds.

25 20. A method as in Claim 16 wherein said retriggerable one shot pulse has a width greater than one line.

21. A method as in Claim 16 wherein said retriggerable one shot pulse has a width of about 70 microseconds.

22. A method as in Claim 16 wherein said multi line one shot pulse has a width greater than one line.

30 23. A method as in Claim 16 wherein said multi line one shot pulse has a width of 6 to 10 lines.

24. A method of locating copy protection pulses within a copy protected video signal comprising the steps of:

inputting said copy protected video signal;

35 chroma band passing said video signal;

detecting a chroma envelope;
generating a first one shot pulse;
generating a second one shot pulse; and
adding said second one shot pulse and chroma envelope to
5 produce a control signal representing a location of said copy
protection pulses.

25. A method as in Claim 24 wherein said first one shot
pulse has a width of approximately 200 lines.

10 26. A method as in Claim 24 wherein said second one shot
pulse has a width of approximately 3 TV lines.

27. An apparatus for removing the effects of pseudo sync
and AGC pulse copy protection signals within a video signal,
the copy protection signals being for inhibiting the making of
acceptable video recordings of the video signal after digital
15 to analog conversion, the method comprising the steps of:

a copy protection location circuit using a color burst
signal for determining a location of said copy protection
signals; and

20 a copy protection modification circuit for modifying the
copy protection signals in at least some of those lines
whereby an acceptable video recording of the video signal can
be made.

28. The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein the copy
protection location circuit comprises:

25 an control pulse representing a location of said copy
protection signals;

said copy protected video signal input signal;

a control pulse for modifying said copy protected signal;

a modification circuit; and

30 an output signal with said copy protection signals
modified or removed.

29. The apparatus of Claim 28, wherein the modification
circuit comprises:

a voltage controlled amplifier that increases an amplitude of all areas of said copy protected video signal except those areas defined by said control pulse.

30. The apparatus of Claim 28, wherein the modification circuit comprises:

a voltage controlled amplifier that decreases an amplitude of the areas of said copy protected video signal defined by said control pulse.

31. The apparatus of Claim 28, wherein the modification circuit modifies less than all of the lines in which the copy protection signals are present, but sufficient of the lines so that an acceptable video recording can be made.

32. The apparatus of Claim 28, wherein the modification circuit comprises:

a control input signal indicating the presence of said copy protection signals within said video signal;

a voltage controlled amplifier controlled by said control signal for controlling the gain of portions said video signals.

33. The apparatus of Claim 32, wherein said voltage controlled amplifier reduces the gain during said presence of said copy protection signals.

34. The apparatus of Claim 32, wherein said voltage controlled amplifier increases the gain of a voltage controlled amplifier during an absence of said copy protection signals within said video signal.

35. The apparatus of Claim 28, wherein the modification circuit comprises:

a control input signal indicating said presence of said copy protection signals within said video signal;

a replacement signal;

a switch for replacing said copy protection signals with said replacement signal.

36. The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein said replacement signal is a signal representing a blanking level of said video signal.

37. The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein said replacement
5 signal is a video signal.

38. The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein said replacement signal is a test signal.

39. An apparatus for removing the effects of pseudo sync and AGC pulse pair copy protection signals within a video
10 signal, the copy protection signals being for inhibiting the making of acceptable analog video recordings of the video signal after digital to analog conversion, the method comprising the steps of:

inputting said copy protected video signal;

15 a copy protection locating circuit using a color burst for determining a location of normal sync pulses; and

a modification circuit for increasing the amplitude of said normal sync pulse relative to said pseudo sync pulses whereby an acceptable video recording of the video signal
20 after digital to analog conversion can be made.

40. An apparatus for locating copy protection pulses within a copy protected video signal comprising:

a copy protected video input signal;

25 a chroma band pass amplifier for chroma band passing said video signal;

a chroma envelope detector for detecting a chroma envelope;

a non-retriggerable one shot pulse generator to generate a first one shot pulse;

30 a retriggerable one shot pulse generator to generate a second one shot pulse;

coupling said retriggerable one shot pulse to a multi line one shot pulse to generate a third one shot pulse; and

coupling said first one shot pulse and third one shot pulse to an and circuit to produce a control signal representing a location of said copy protection pulses.

41. An apparatus as in Claim 40 wherein said first one shot pulse has a width less than one line.

42. An apparatus as in Claim 40 wherein said second one shot pulse has a width less than one line.

43. An apparatus as in Claim 40 wherein said first one shot pulse has a width 52 to 54 microseconds.

44. An apparatus as in Claim 40 wherein said second one shot pulse has a width greater than one line.

45. An apparatus as in Claim 40 wherein said second one shot pulse has a width of about 70 microseconds.

46. An apparatus as in Claim 40 wherein said third one shot pulse has a width greater than one line.

47. An apparatus as in Claim 40 wherein said third one shot pulse has a width of 6 to 10 lines.

48. An apparatus for locating copy protection pulses within a copy protected video signal comprising:

a chroma band pass amplifier for chroma band passing said video signal;

a chroma envelope detector for detecting a chroma envelope;

a first one shot pulse generator to generate a first one shot pulse;

said first one shot pulse is coupled to a second one shot pulse generator to generate a second one shot pulse; and

said first one shot pulse and said chroma envelope are coupled to an and circuit to produce a control signal representing a location of said copy protection pulses.

49. An apparatus as in Claim 48 wherein said first one shot pulse has a width of approximately 200 lines.

50. An apparatus method as in Claim 48 wherein said second one shot pulse has a width of approximately 2.8 microseconds.

a copy protected video input signal.

51. The method of Claim 27 wherein the copy protection signals are in the NTSC format.

52. The method of Claim 27 wherein the copy protection
5 signals are in the PAL format.

53. The method of Claim 27 wherein the copy protection signals are in the SECAM format.

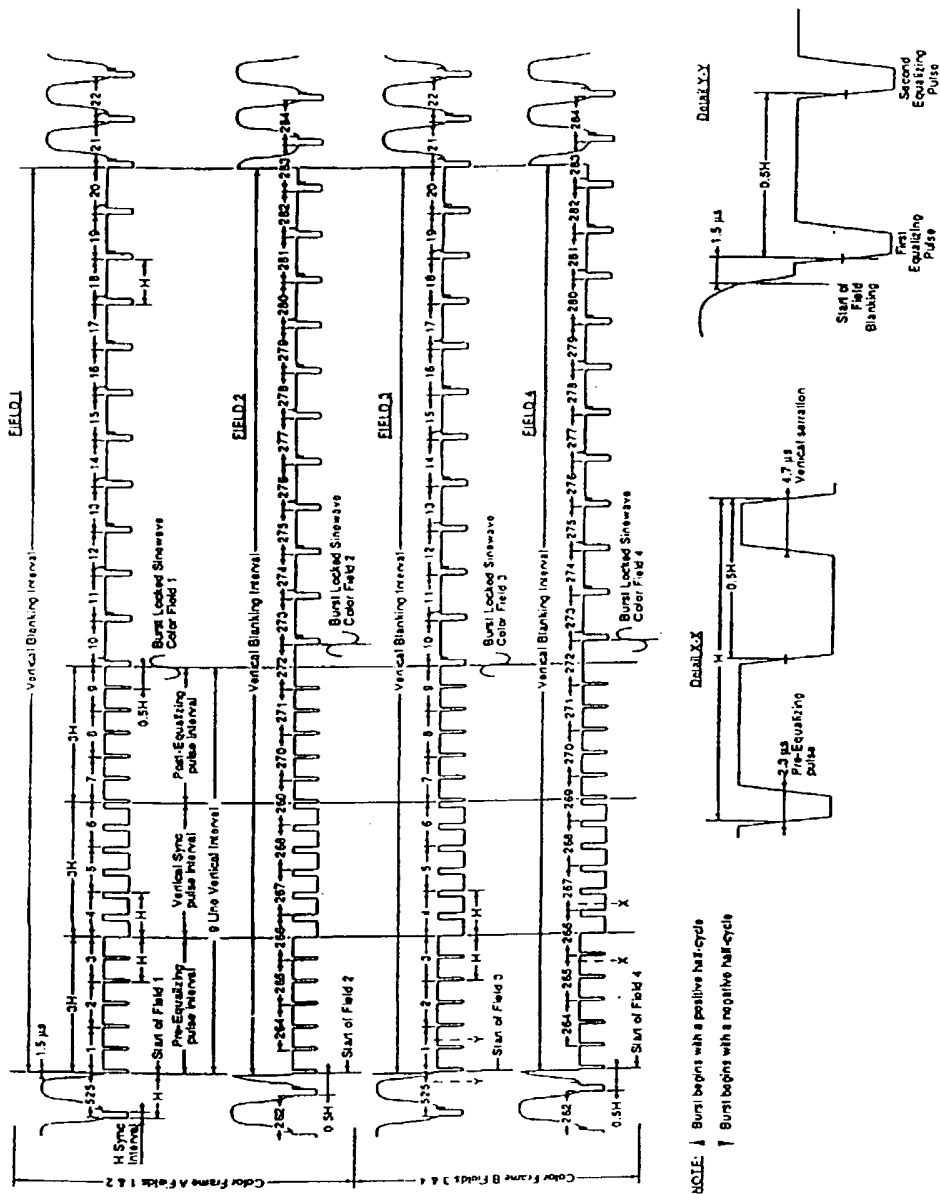


Figure 1.

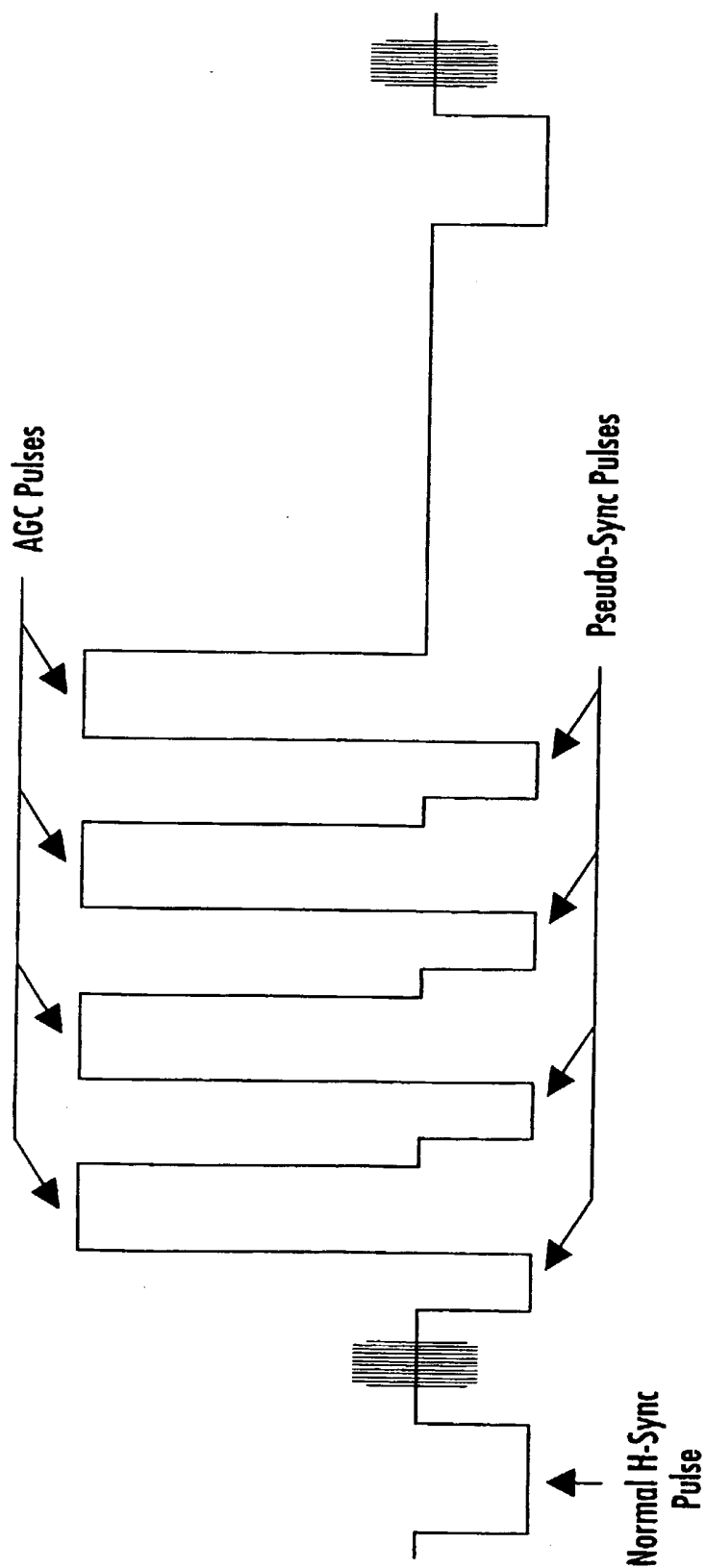


FIGURE 2

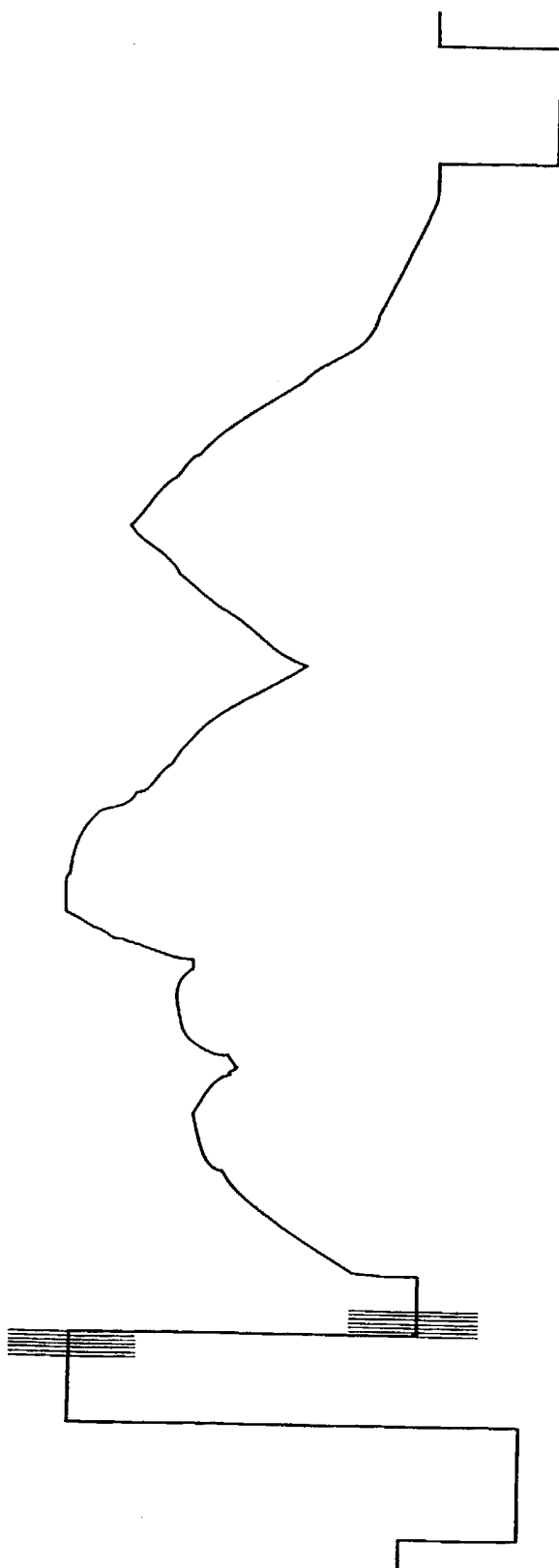


FIGURE 3

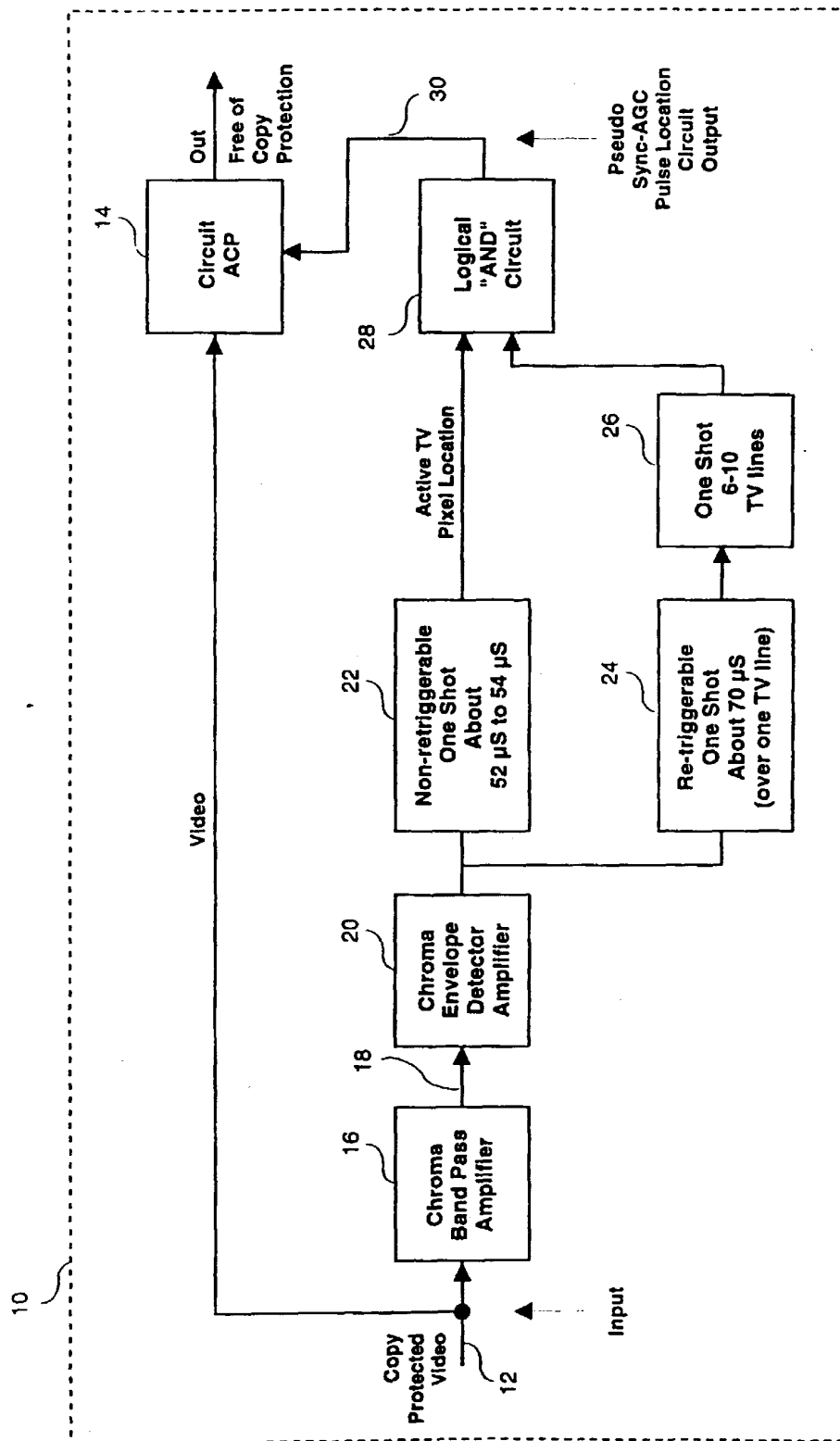


FIGURE 4

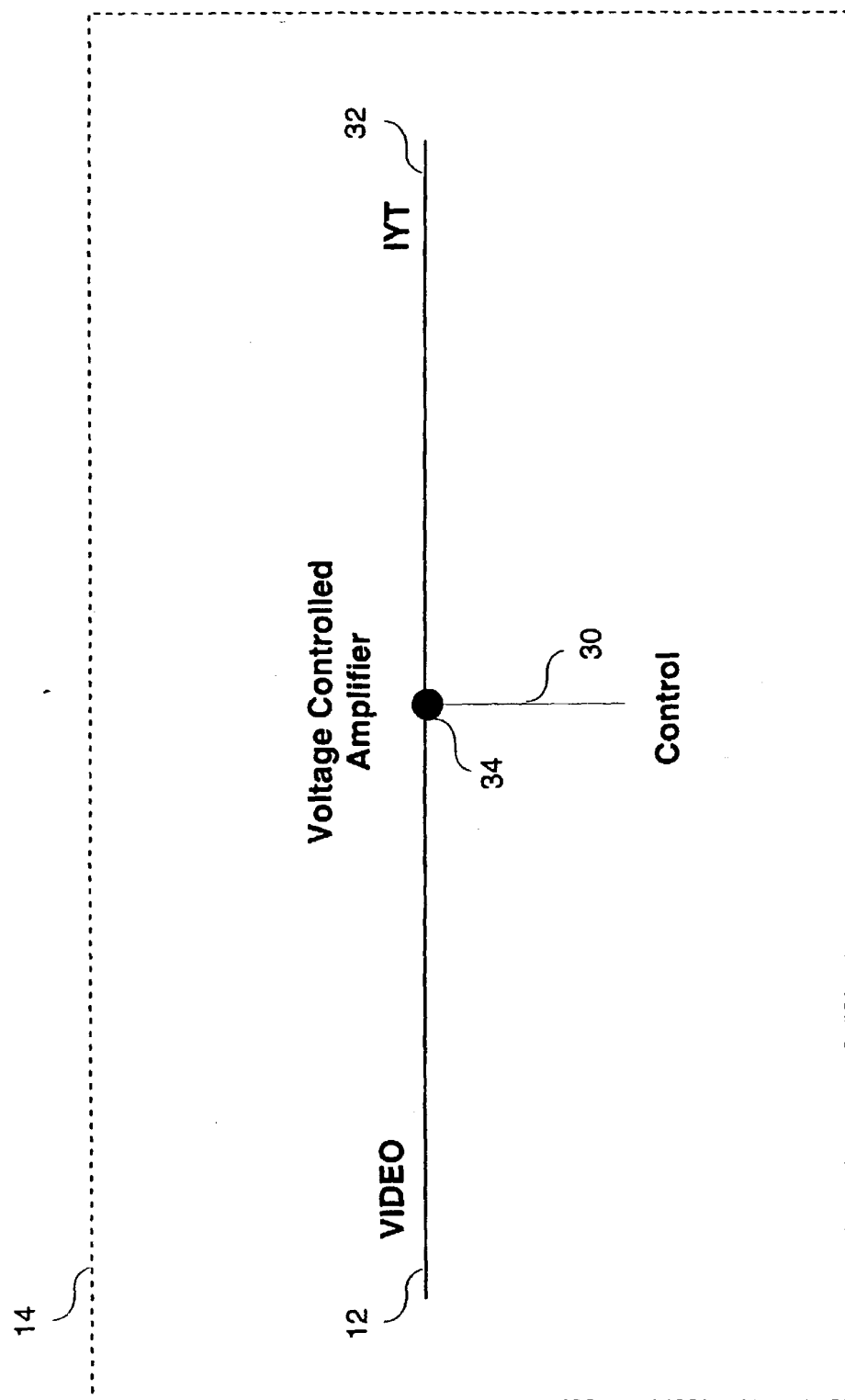


FIGURE 5

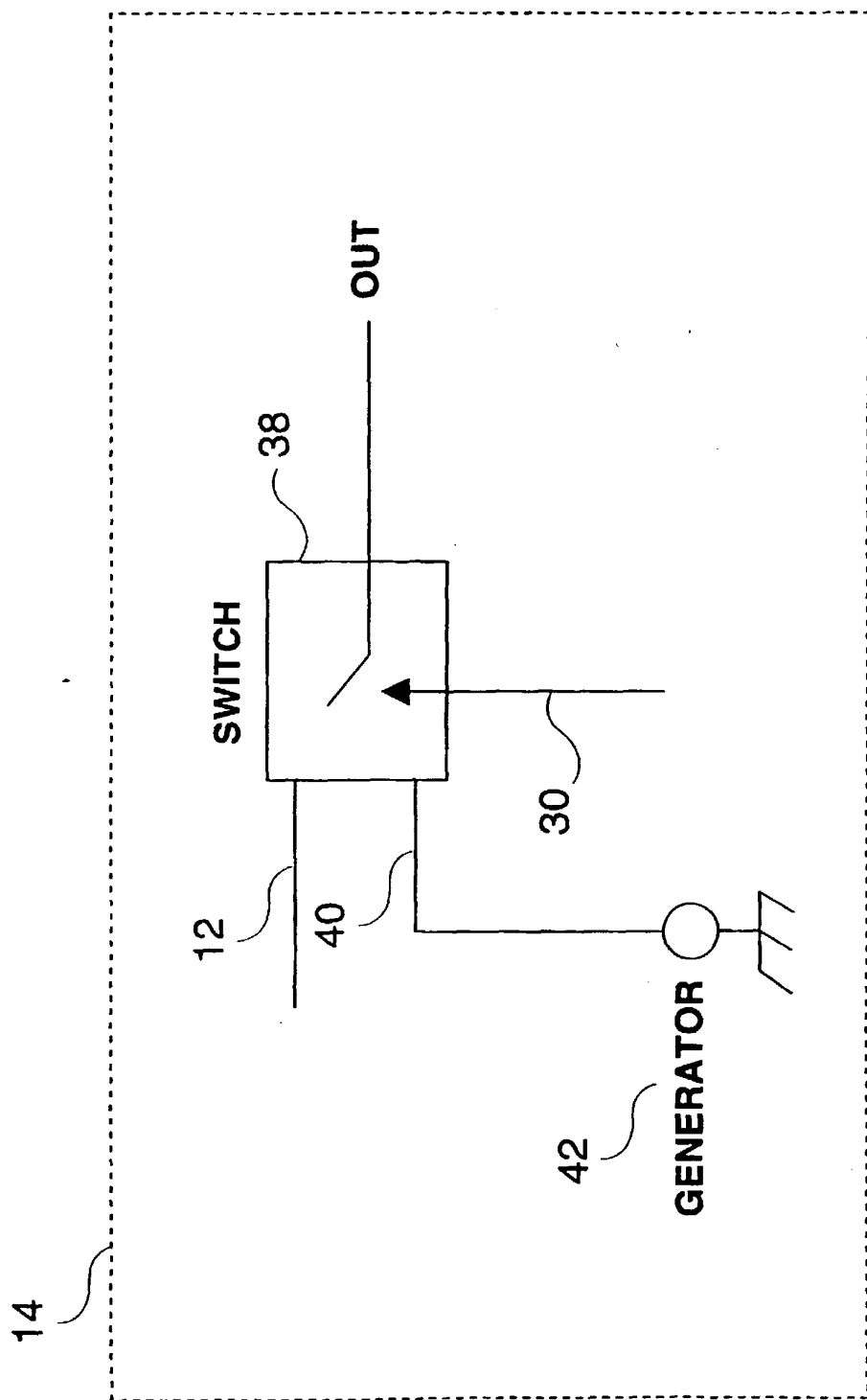


FIGURE 6

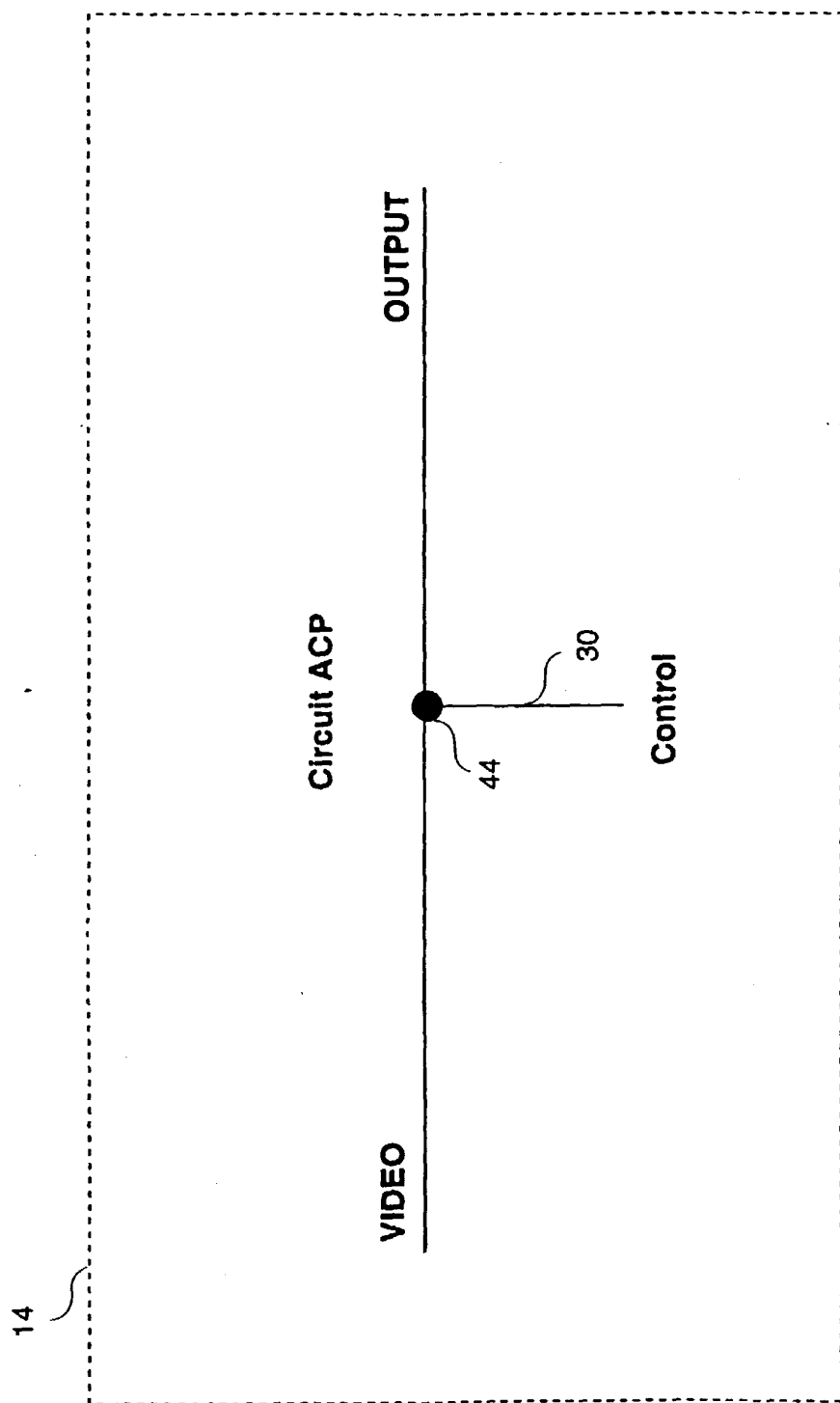


FIGURE 7

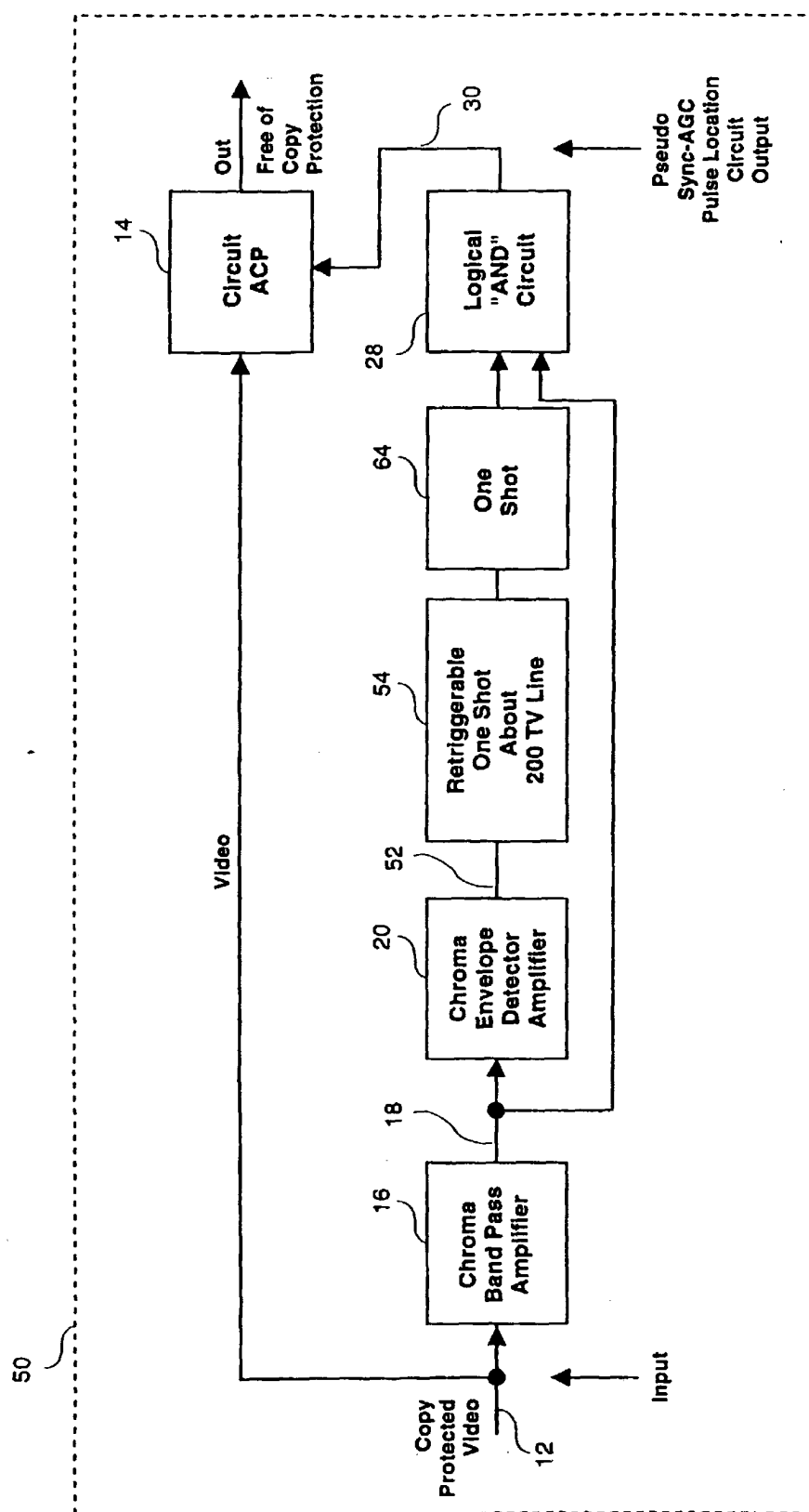


FIGURE 9

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US96/16783

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) : Please See Extra Sheet.

US CL : 386/94; 380/5, 10, 13, 15, 38

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 386/94; 380/5, 10, 13, 15, 38

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
NONEElectronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
APS

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US, 4,695,901 A (RYAN) 22 SEPTEMBER 1987, COL. 2, LINE 50 TO COL. 6, LINE 20.	1-15, 27-39 & 51-53
Y	US, 5,058,157 A (RYAN) 15 OCTOBER 1991, COL. 4, LINE 46 TO COL. 11, LINE 32.	1-15, 27-39 & 51-53.
Y	US 5,157,510 A (QUAN ET AL.) 20 OCTOBER 1992, COL. 3, LINE 35 TO COL. 7, LINE 12.	16-26 & 40-50
Y	US 4,819,098 A (RYAN) 04 APRIL 1989, COL. 3, LINES 23-37.	16-26 & 40-50

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.
 ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	* T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
* A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	* X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
* E* earlier document published on or after the international filing date	* Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
* L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	* A* document member of the same patent family
* O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
* I* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

31 DECEMBER 1996

Date of mailing of the international search report

28 FEB 1997

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US96/16783

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER: IPC (6):

HO4N 5/782, 7/167

BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION WAS LACKING This ISA found multiple inventions as follows:

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be searched, the appropriate additional search fees must be paid.

Group I, claims 1-15, 27-39 and 51-53, drawn to a method and apparatus for removing the effects of pseudo sync and AGC pulse copy protection signals within a video signal.

Group II, claims 16-26 and 40-50, drawn to a method and apparatus for locating copy protection pulses within a copy protected video signal).